



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**®  
Albuquerque District



# NEWS RELEASE

**Bruce Hill, Jr.**  
Public Affairs Chief  
Office: (505) 342-3171  
Cell: (505) 379-4636

**Cynthia Piirto**  
Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Office: (505) 342-3277  
Fax: (505) 342- 3195

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Press Release**  
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**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and New Mexico State Parks  
Celebrate 75th Anniversary of the New Deal**

*Platinum Anniversary Celebration hosted at Conchas Lake Dam by the  
Corps of Engineers and New Mexico State Parks*

*The Corps of Engineers - Albuquerque District traces its roots to America's  
Great Depression, the New Deal and the workers who found jobs and hope  
building Conchas Dam*

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**Friday, June 27  
10:00 a.m.  
Conchas Dam Day Use Area**

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**75th Anniversary New Deal Highlights**

Reflecting Conchas Lake Dam's appeal as a popular recreation destination, the celebration ties the future with the past by incorporating an open house of the Conchas Dam Administration Complex, and tours of Conchas Dam, the South Side Day Use Area and Lodge. The Corps will be distributing limited edition State Heritage Preservation Month posters. This year's poster features a historic photo of Conchas Dam, (pictured at the end of this release).

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"We are proud to highlight the role of Conchas Dam," said LTC Bruce A. Estok, Commander of the Corps of Engineers – Albuquerque District.

"The flood risk mitigation, irrigation, and recreation it provides would not be possible had it not been for the human grit and determination of the past, and the committed partnerships between federal, state, local agencies of today. This event is for the public's benefit, and should raise an appreciation for what the New Deal accomplished, as well as the legacy that has endured – Conchas Dam," he said.

There will be a New Mexico State Parks boating officers display, an exhibit, and giveaways that will deliver a special experience to the public.

"State Parks is honored to share the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration with the Corps of Engineers at Conchas Dam and the Civilian Conservation Corps," said State Parks Director Dave Simon. "We will renew our commitment to preserve and protect our heritage at Conchas Lake and all state parks."

New Mexico State Parks celebrates its 75th Diamond Anniversary throughout 2008 with a three-carat diamond bracelet giveaway, special events, the Geocaching Challenge, Outdoor Classroom initiatives and more.

Special presentations will be given ranging from the significance of preserving New Deal works like Conchas Dam and Conchas Lodge, to a symbolic ribbon cutting for the South Side Day Use Area and design of the future South Side Campground at the project office pavilion.

The public is encouraged to bring their own picnic-style lunch.

### **Opportunity Abounds**

History records that 4,000 people celebrated in the streets of nearby Tucumcari the day President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Congress approved construction of Conchas Dam in the 1930's. Sirens, horns, bands and shouting filled the air at the prospect of new jobs. New Mexico was particularly hard hit by the depression, with half of its people unemployed.

The New Deal anniversary celebration is a tribute to Conchas Dam and those who built and operated it, helping to revive a nation that was once in the throes of the Great Depression.

### **Then and now**

When Conchas Dam was built the very spirit of the nation was in doubt. Started under President Roosevelt's Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, the project broke ground in the summer of 1935 and was intended to provide flood control,

irrigation to water, and jobs for thousands of the unemployed. It took 2,500 men, working 24 hours a day, seven days a week for four years to build Conchas Dam.

Today, Conchas Lake serves as an oasis in arid New Mexico.

### **District Flagship Office Builds on Rich Tradition**

For 73 years the Corps of Engineers Albuquerque District has proudly served the public and called the New Mexico area home. Originally called the Tucumcari District, it was established in Tucumcari, New Mexico near Conchas Dam in 1935. After its relocation to Albuquerque in early 1942, it has been since known as the Albuquerque District. The District recognizes the New Deal as being the mark of a new beginning for our Nation and the Corps.

### **About the Albuquerque District**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Albuquerque District employs approximately 350 personnel, and has a boundary of over 250,000 square miles. For more information, call 505-342-3171 or visit [www.spa.usace.army.mil/](http://www.spa.usace.army.mil/)

### **About New Mexico State Parks**

Over 75 years, State Parks has evolved from a federal New Deal initiative in 1933 to a vibrant system of 34 parks serving over four million people annually. For more information, call 888-NMPARKS or visit [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).

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**See poster below**

# New Deal 75

US Army Corps of Engineers, April 12, 1933



## CONCHAS DAM



New Mexico

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## Heritage Preservation Month, May 2008

Bureau of Land Management • Will B. Murphy • Santa Fe Scottish Rite Center • Archaeological Society of New Mexico • Cherry/Sief/Bonanni Architects, LLP  
The Hartman + Maymundo Design Group • Lone Mountain Archaeological Services, Inc. • Friends of the Conchos B Valley Scenic Railroad, Inc. • Morris and Associates, Inc.  
NMTHF • Friends of Archaeology/Office of Archaeological Studies • National New Deal Preservation Association • New Mexico Archaeological Council • Katherine Slack  
S.W.C.A., Incorporated • Stahler Parking • State Monuments • U.S. General Services Administration • Greater Southwest Region • In Memory of R.J. and F.M. Victor  
Valley Improvement Association • Village of Los Lunas • Museum of Heritage and Arts • New Mexico Historic Preservation Division, Department of Cultural Affairs

[www.architecturalpreservation.org](http://www.architecturalpreservation.org)

